



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

REPRESENTATIVE LINDA M. GENTILE
ONE HUNDRED FOURTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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CHAIRMAN
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

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COMMERCE COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

February 28, 2012

The Honorable Carlo Leone
Legislative Office Building, Room 3602
Hartford, CT 06106

The Honorable Jack Hennessy
Legislative Office Building, Room 5002
Hartford, CT 06106

Good Afternoon Honorable Chairs, Ranking Members, and Committee Members of the Veteran's Affairs Committee:

My name is Representative Linda Gentile, and I represent the 104th District serving the cities of Ansonia and Derby. I am here to discuss Senate Bill 198, An Act To Increase The Penalties For The Intentional Desecration Of War Or Veterans' Memorials.

I am strongly in favor of this legislation, and I respectfully urge the committee to pass this important bill this session. I believe that any monuments or memorials that honor our service members and veterans in Connecticut are sacred and should never be intentionally defiled. In recent months, my district has seen vandals steal original and historic plaques in both Witek Park in Derby and at the Woodbridge Avenue Memorial in Ansonia.

As a result of this vandalism, there was a public outcry from the Valley Community to find a way to cover the costs to replace the plaques that were stolen from the memorials. Although fundraising has begun, the Valley Community should not have to be responsible for the replacement of these monuments.

The meaning that these plaques symbolize, for not only the community, but also for the Veterans and their families that sacrificed for our state is of the utmost importance and I strongly urge the committee to pass this bill unanimously.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to my testimony and thank you for raising this important bill.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda M. Gentile".

Linda M. Gentile
State Representative, 104th District